

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 5 through 25 are pending in this application. Claims 2 and 24 are amended in several particulars for purposes of clarity in accordance with current Office policy, to assist the examiner and to expedite compact prosecution of this application. Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of its subject matter. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowance concerning claims 5-23 and 25 and the allowability of claims 2 and 24.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 5-23, and 25.

The Examiner stated that claims 2 and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The applicant appreciates the examiner's indication of allowability pertaining to claims 2 and 24. Claim 2 and 24 were amended to include the base claim and any intervening claims according to the suggestion of the Examiner. However, the phrase "said printing device controller setting an exclusive use for a certain user from a plurality of users with respect to at least one of said sheet outputting position units when instructed," which was added to claim 1 in the previous response filed on September 8, 2004, was not included in amended claims 2 and 24 as the Examiner indicates that


the limitations of claim 2 and 24 are allowable.

Entry of the foregoing amendments to claims 2 and 24 is proper under 37 C.F.R. 1.116(b) because those amendments simply respond to the issues raised in the final rejection, no new issues are raised, no further search is required, and the foregoing amendments are believed to remove the basis of the outstanding rejections and to place all claims in condition for allowance. The foregoing amendments, and explanations, could not have been made earlier because they are merely responsive to issues newly raised in Paper No. 1/14/05 and Paper no. 20050515.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all claims are deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. If there are any questions, the examiner is asked to contact the applicant's attorney.

A fee of \$450.00 is incurred by filing a petition for two (2) months extension of time. Applicant's check drawn to the order of the Commissioner accompanies this Amendment. Should there be a deficiency in payment, or should other fees be incurred, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-4943 of Applicant's undersigned attorney in the amount of such fees.

Respectfully submitted,


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